

FEBRUARY
2024

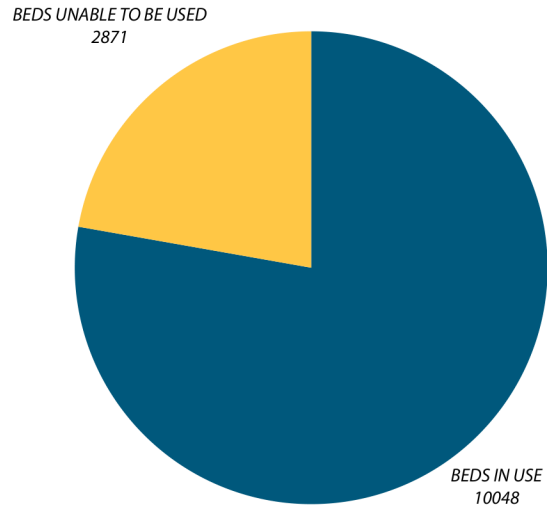
ACCESS TO NURSING HOME CARE

LeadingAge PA Member Survey

LeadingAge PA conducted this survey of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) members using the online survey platform, Alchemer. Responses were collected from January 31 - February 14, 2024 with 122 members responding, **or a response rate of 67%**. This represents nearly 20% of all nursing homes in Pennsylvania.

1. Out of all survey respondents, current number of licensed beds* vs. current census (number of filled beds) reported:

Nearly
1 in 4
certified nursing beds are offline.



2. If you currently have licensed beds offline**, rank your reasons for reducing your nursing home capacity with 1 being the most critical reason.

- 1** Inadequate nurse aide staffing
- 2** Inadequate Medicaid reimbursement
- 3** Inadequate LPN staffing
- 4** Other (sample responses):
 - To accommodate specific requirements within the staffing regulations
 - Transitioning to personal care/assisted living to increase memory support capacity
 - Converting semi-private rooms to private rooms based on consumer preference

“Continued increases in staffing requirements at this time and low reimbursement only leads to more seniors in our region forced to sit in emergency rooms, be sent to lower quality facilities significant distances away or go home without access to the care and services that they require.”

- Provider in Crawford County

*“Licensed beds” indicates a bed the nursing home has a required license to operate from the PA Department of Health

***“Offline” means any bed that a nursing home has an active license for from the PA Department of Health but is not currently filling with residents

3. In the last 2-3 months, despite having licensed beds available, have you declined any potential hospital discharges because of staffing and/or funding challenges?

48%

Have declined hospital referrals within the last 2-3 months, despite having licensed beds available, due to staffing and/or funding challenges.

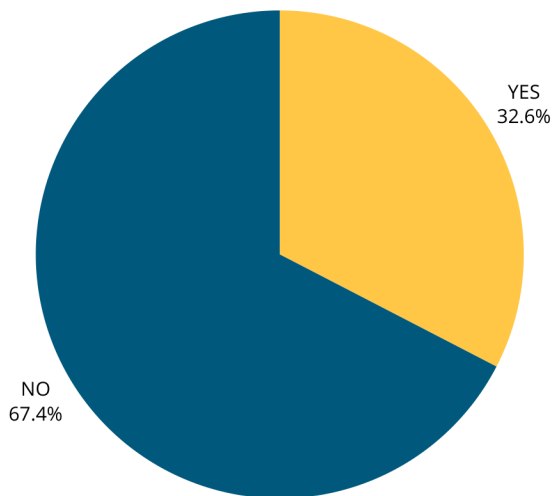
“A Medicaid funding increase would allow us to hire additional staff to serve more residents to remove the burden on our acute care partners and community by our ability to accept more residents.”

- Provider in Crawford County

“Our staffing challenges are too severe to consider bringing beds back online. Increased funds are needed to retain the staff we have and to be able to recruit for the beds already online.”

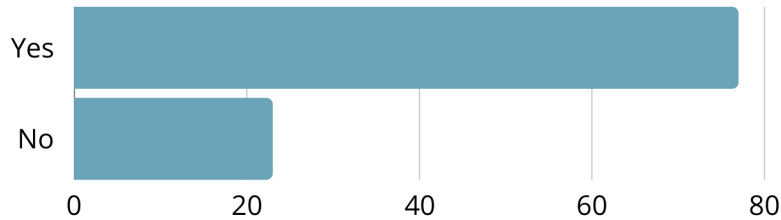
- Provider in Adams County

4. Have you been able to bring any beds back online within the last year?



Of those who answered “yes,” when asked what has enabled them to do so, the #1 reason was the ability to hire more staff (often after a pay rate increase).

5. Are you currently using temporary agency staff to fill CNA, LPN, and/or RN positions?



6. If there was a Medicaid rate increase for nursing homes in the 2024-2025 PA state budget, what would be your priority to apply this funding to first?

93%

Would increase wages to retain existing staff and/or increase starting wages to hire more staff.

“The world of non-profit skilled nursing centers is becoming a thing of the past due to decreased reimbursement, increased regulations and staffing issues.”

- Provider in Montgomery County

“We don’t participate in MA because the funding is so terrible. In October 2022, we shut down our sister community, which was almost entirely Medicaid. After years of losses in the millions due to MA funding we could no longer subsidize that home. So, the area lost a 5-star Medicaid community because PA won’t fund MA sufficiently.”

- Provider in Allegheny County